



Gathering of Warriors Powwow

Honoring Families of Active Duty Military Personnel

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Menominee Nation News

A beautiful sunny day with eagles playing in the wind highlighted the opening ceremony of the 14th annual Gathering of Warriors Powwow held Friday, May 16th through Sunday, May 18th. The eagles came to give respect and honor to the families who were raising their family flags for this weekend of honor for our military personnel.

After the invocation and blessing of the grounds, special recognition was given to Leonard Oshkeshequoam. Leonard was instrumental in obtaining the Veterans Memorial that is outside the Tribal Courts Building.

Wayne Martin was also honored as one of the founders of the Menominee Veterans Association which later became the Veterans of the Menominee Nation.

The Veterans of the Menominee Nation (VMN) - “Omaeqnomenewak Semakanes” - (Menominee Soldiers) - is an organization that was formed in the early 1980’s. The organization is dedicated to providing community service and leadership to the community in the tradition of American Indian warrior societies.

John Menomin and Becky Hawpetoss served as the head dancers for this weekend of family fun. Aaron Weso was the head veteran dancer for the weekend.

Armed Forces Day was held on Saturday, May 17. Recognition was given to each of the 48 eagle staffs and flags in grand entry. Many of our relatives came from Lac du Flambeau to join in this special day of honoring for families of active military personnel.

American Indian warriors are accorded the highest respect among the people of their community. At powwows they lead the grand entry



C. Caldwell/MNN

NaTasha Tomow, right, was crowned as the 2003 Veterans of the Menominee Nation Princess. Kaylene O’Kimosh was named as the first runner-up. The girls were judged on an interview, essays submitted, and the dance contest.

with their Eagle staff flags, the flag of the United States and Canada, their tribal nation flag, the flag of their organizations and the branches of military service.

The Veterans of the Menominee Nation presented each family with a member currently in the armed forces with a plaque. An honor song was dedicated to our warriors.

Duck Creek Crossing of Oneida served as the host drum. Tragically on Friday night one of their singers suffered a heart attack, but is recovering. On Saturday a jingle dress song was sang for him directly after grand entry.

The Veterans presented Yvonne Pamonicutt Knowles with an eagle feather to honor her as a gold star mother. Her son Martin Pamonicutt died in Vietnam.

NaTasha Tomow, 7th grader at the

Menominee Tribal School, won the Veterans of the Menominee Nation Princess contest. Each contestant was given points for the interview, essay, and dance contest. NaTasha will represent the VMN at powwows and community events for 2003-2004. She is the daughter of Cheryl Wynos and Alan Tomow.

Kaylene O’Kimosh, daughter of Llona Tucker-May, was chosen as the first runner-up and will serve as Princess if NaTasha is not able to fulfill her duties. Kaylene is an 8th grader at the Menominee Tribal School.

Flora Madosh, the outgoing princess, held a traditional give-away to thank the veterans and community for the honor bestowed upon her this past year.

The veterans made time on the agenda for John Lawe to present an eagle bustle to Stan LaTender, the are-

na director and traditional dancer. Julia Pyawasay, Menominee elder, presented a ribbon shirt she had made for Stan.

Sawyer Denning, the eagle staff carrier for the Milwaukee Indian Community School, presented a golden eagle feather to the Veterans of the Menominee Nation by the sacred fire on Saturday. His uncle, Alan Caldwell, and his father, Mark Denning, spoke for the feather at the sacred fire as part of the presentation. Sawyer will be graduating from the 8th grade and will pass his duties on this year. “This was his way of honoring the veterans for who they are and for welcoming him here,” said Shari Denning, his grandmother.

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